

MEETING NOTES

Well, we did have a meeting of a sort the last time out. Those of you who did not attend the November meeting or left early may be interested in what happened. Upon our arrival at the Odd Fellows Lodge, we discovered that the door was locked and a note on the door saying the Hall had been rented out for the night. As we had planned the meeting well ahead of time, this was news to us. I thought, since I had a key, that we could still get in and hold a brief meeting. but nooooo.....they had changed the lock also. Needless to say, we all were flabbergasted.

The people who own the pizza parlor next door were kind enough to let us come in out of the cold. After downing a few pizzas and drowning our sorrows in Coke, we were informed by Mr. Swinburne, that the Nokimis Community Center was available for our use that night. I considered that very lucky as it was the Sunday night after Thanksgiving. After thanking the pizza parlor owners, we then proceeded to the Community Center and began our regular meeting.

The meeting began normally enough. Phil was jumping up and down and ranting and raving at the Odd Fellows fraternity. After Dale slapped him a few times to get him under control, we began.

It was announced at that meeting we would have to find another meeting place real soon. Phil solicited suggestions. Also, it was decided by the people attending (about 60 that we should combine the Dec. and Jan. meetings. Steve Crowley recommended the night of Jan. 8. Phil said it would be ok as long as they did not expect him to run the meeting. He was coming back from the CES in Las

Vegas that night and would not be in any condition to run things. The members, not wanting to miss Phil's scintillating conversation, then wanted the meeting moved to Jan. 15. That would give Phil a chance to recuperate and give a report on what he saw down in Vegas.

Other items of interest that night was; Phil announced the formation of discussion groups starting with the next meeting. The groups will be formed by people interested in a particular subject. The groups we will start out with will be: Beginning Computing (headed no less than by Phil himself), Graphics (Dale Panton), Telecommunications (Jim Dahlberg), Computer Music (who else? but the cheat, Mike Davis), Hardware (Rick Christian), and Compute Magazine programs (Don Robinson). These groups will meet from 6:00 PM to 6:45 PM before the meeting. Anybody interested in these subjects will be requested to attend one of these groups. THESE ARE NOT TUTORIALS, THERE WILL BE NO LECTURING. JUST SOME HONEST DIALOGUE BETWEEN INTERESTED PARTIES. Phil wanted me to emphasize this part of it. Also, Phil said to remind the people heading these groups to make up signs so that the people will know where to go at the next meeting.

The 800XL still was not out at the time of the meeting. However, Phil dd one about the middle of Dec.

There was an announcement that Basic XL was now out. This is a basic cartridge from OSS. It has all the features of their Basic A+ plus string arrays and compatibility with Atari Basic. The reason this was news was that this basic runs much faster than Atari's. This is available from several stores around town.

The meeting was ended and I think everyone had a good time despite the inexcusable actions of persons who shall remain nameless. See you on Jan. 15!

XL NEWS

If you have purchased one of Atari's 800XL or 1200 XL then this information may be of some worth to you. There is available from Atari or some local people, the official Atari Translator diskettes. These programs will download the old Atari D.S. into RAM so that the programs that would not work on these machines will now work. I find it quite amusing that Atari has to translate something to work with the Atari.

As long as we are talking about things from Atari, I might as well mention that the 1027 Letter Quality Printer is out. I have not seen one in action, but I did see an unopened box up at User Friendly. It does look like Atari is finally getting some of the things out they have promised us a long time ago.

Of other interest to you, may be the Atari demopacs (1-11). These are information sheets you can get from Atari for nothing. They range on hardware timers to scrolling and data manipulation. As these are free, I would recommend ordering these from Atari through their customer service number 1-800-538-8543.

Tim Hurley is compiling a list of programs that will not work on the XL computers with or without the translator disk. If you know of programs that won't work, then please contact someone at TAIG and give them the news.

That's all the news on XLs for now. Keep on Trucking!

trak
MIKROCOMPUTER CORP



SWINBURNE SOFTWARE

(612) 454-0501



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Sammy Lightfoot	D,Ct	29.00
Seven Cities of Gold	D	34.00
Star Trek	Ct	27.00
Ultima 3 Exodus	D	40.00
Worms?	D	29.00
Zombies	D,Ct	26.00
Indus Disk Drive		349.00
Trak AT/D2 w/printer port		360.00

SPECIAL ORDERS ARE WELCOME!



612-542-1027

3546 Pilgrim Lane
Plymouth, MN 55441**SOFT UNLIMITED
Christmas Sale**

All of the following items are in stock and available for immediate pickup or mail order. We have plenty of each item, but with all of the people getting ATARIs these days, these products are moving fast and when they are gone, we will revert back to the original pricing (i.e. dealer price on LETTERMAN is \$18.60).

ITEM	RETAIL	SALE
HOME:		
APX: Family Cash Flow II (good money manager)	\$29.95	\$15
APX: Family Budget (budget/analyze cash flow)	\$29.95	\$15
EDUCATION:		
APX: LETTERMAN (non-violent, ages 6-adult)	\$29.95	\$15
APX: COUNTER (count in 4 languages, ages 3-8)	\$24.95	\$15
APX: NUMBER BLAST (Multiply/Add Game, ages 6-9)	\$24.95	\$15
APX: VIDEO MATH FLASHCARDS (ages 6-10)	\$24.95	\$15
APX: QUIZ MASTER (Build your own quizzes, age 8-)	\$24.95	\$15
RECREATIONAL:		
APX: EASTERN FRONT 1941 (WWII simulation)	\$29.95	\$15
APX: GALAHAD and the HOLY GRAIL (graphics adv.)	\$29.95	\$15
APX: AVALANCHE (fast action, like Kaboom!)	\$24.95	\$15
APX: 747 Landing Simulator	\$24.95	\$15
GAMES PACK I: (Blackjack, Craps, Lunar, more)	\$15.00	\$5
GAMES PACK II: (AceyDuecy, Life, more)	\$15.00	\$5

APX Multipurchase special (from above list):
any 2: \$25, any 3: \$35, 4 or more: \$10/each+1 free game pack

Sorry, but these are disk versions only.

Speaking of disks, gander at the following XMAS prices:

Wabash: \$18/box of 10 Generic: \$17/10 Either type: \$160/100
TDK DDS: \$30/box (limited qty) BASF 8" DSDD: \$40/box

What! 8" diskettes advertized in an ATARI newsletter? Well, you can move up to 8" drives with the ATR:

ATR8000 w/16K: \$310 ATR8000 w/64K & CP/M: \$415
AUTOTERM-80 (80 col term prog for ATR8000): \$29

OTHER:

410 recorders: \$50 Programmer Kit: \$45
INDUS DRIVES (Includes DDS and Software): \$445
RANA DRIVES: \$315 (limited time only)

NEW FROM SOFT UNLIMITED: SOFTBASE 1.0. This program is an incore database program that lets you design your own database by editing a screen display. The program and data load into memory in less than 45 seconds (even if you have 1,500 thirty byte records!) and data searches and updates are instant (as far as we humans can tell.) Best of all, it is simple to use (you won't have to read any documentation) and it is cheap (\$12.00!). Version 1.0 will be released on 1/15/83. Yes Phil, it will have a print option (and more). CARTDISK (\$25), DISKEDIT (\$25), ULTRACOPY (\$20), and SOFT PHONE INDEX (\$8) are still available from SU.

IMPORTANT MEETING INFO

The next TAIG meeting will be held on January 15. Discussions groups began at 6:00. Swap meet at 5:00. Regular meeting at 7:00

This month's meeting is at the St. Louis Park Rec Center which is located on 36th Street a few city blocks distance east of Hwy. 100.

If you know where the Byerly's is in St. Louis Park, you are very close. Just go east on 36th Street and you should not miss it. It is a very big building. It also has its own parking lot. If you are still confused about where it is, examine the map below.

WANTED

CORPORATE LEADERSHIP

APPLY AT ATARI, INC.

TAWAIN

MINIMAL EDUCATION REQUIRED



Children Will Play
by Phil Seifert

Hi, remember me? I just thought it would be time for me to come up for some fresh air. It is awfully musty in those dungeons. I have a lot of stuff to catch up on but I don't think I will try. •

One of the things I would like to mention is the new releases from Synapse. I LIKE ENCOUNTER. It is a Battlezone type game and I think that is all that needs to be said about this one. It is good. Highly recommended. Rainbow Walker from Synapse isn't quite what I thought it would be. It is a Q-bert on a rainbow scenario. I think the game itself is very good, but I really did not quite like the joystick handling and the irritating music. This one was written by Stephen Coleman who is the author of Pharaoh's Curse. This one is not on my must have list, but, nevertheless, maybe it will be the one for you.

Have you seen all those new cartridges out from Sega? I wish I hadn't! To me, Congo Bongo and Star Trek are the pits. The only one that has any potential I think is Buck Rogers and the Planet of Zoom. This is one of your classic shoot-the-buggers-up game. If you are desperate for programs for your 16k computer then look at these.

It might be better if you look at the cartridges from Parker Brothers. The official Q-Bert, Popeye, and Frogger. Soon to come Tutankahm, Risk, Chess, Super Cobra, and Astro Chase. Your money would be better spent on these games.

You might be wondering what Electronic Arts is up to these days. First, they came out with a

bunch of real good programs for the Atari; M.U.L.E., Archon, Worms?, and Pinball Construction Set. Then came the translations; Hard Hat Mack and Axis Assassin. Everyone knows that I have a preference for original stuff and abhor translations. These newest ones affirm my belief. Hard Hat Mack is not a game that really excites me. It is one of those in the Donkey Kong mold. Axis Assassin, in my opinion, is a poor rendition of Tempest. I am glad I had a chance to see these programs before I bought them sight unseen. Remember, always look at what you are buying, don't get it by the name only. Other programs coming out from Electronic Arts for the Atari are; Seven Cities of Gold, Word Flyer, D-Bug, and possibly Standing Stones. The last one is rumored to be better than Wizardry and might be translated for the Atari.

For those of you who need an Infocom fix, there has been a few releases since the last time I spoke to you. There is; The Witness, Planetfall, The Enchanter, and Infidel. Of course, if you like text adventures, these programs come highly recommended. If you need help in solving any of these, please do not call me. You can purchase Infocom's Hint booklets. Of course, using these may be considered cheating. I would never consider using one of these.

Speaking of cheating, I am sure some of you read with interest in the last newsletter, the article by Mike Davis on how to fix yourself up with anything you may need for Ultima II. Mike and I are having an argument over whether or not this is cheating. I say it is and he says it is not. All I know that anyone who uses this method of solving adventures deserves to be turned into toad. Where would your pride be, if you made things too

easy and looked like Kermit.

Next month's newsletter, Davis will try to become a repeat offender. He will tell you how to modify Ultima III. I highly recommend not reading that particular article. I think you would enjoy winning the game much more if you did not cheat. That is all I have to say on that subject.

You probably noticed I mentioned Ultima III above. This is one dandy of a program. Well worth the \$60 retail for it. It is very close to D&D. You have a party of four for each trip into the game. When you encounter the beasties that would like to have you for lunch, you have four different characters to fight with. I won't describe any more of the game. This is also one of those must haves for those of you with disk drives and 48k.

This fresh air is starting to get to me. I had better return to the depths and find the lost city. Til next time, Happy Adventuring.

THE 2 BEST REASONS TO BUY
YOUR COMPUTER SOFTWARE FROM

computer FOOD FIRST

Computer FOOD has all of the best new software titles in stock as soon as they are released, in most cases before any other store in the Twin Cities or national mail order companies. Because of problems between Atari and the local Atari distributor the new software from Atari (Pole Position, Robotron, Donkey Kong Jr., Pengo, LOGO, MS Pacman, etc.) has not been available in this area. To make a very long story short, I made many calls and received special permission from Atari to have all of the new titles ship to me from out of state. Some titles will be here before Christmas and more to follow before the end of the year. Be sure to call and reserve yours today, because they are sure to go fast. Not only am I likely to be the first computer software dealer in the twin cities to receive some of these Atari titles, but I may be the only one, until they try has hard as I do.

Here are some other titles that I was the first to have in stock: Rainbow Walker, Lode Runner, Blue Max, Zeppelin, Flip-N-Flop, Bristles, BASIC/XL, BASH, and the list goes on.

BEST PRICE

Now getting software first is a nice idea, but if your paying list price, or 10% off, or 20% off, you are just plain wasting your money. Computer food's prices are so low that you won't find the same program for sale anywhere, even mail order, for less. Just to prove I mean what I say, take the list below and do some comparison shopping. If you buy your next program from some other software dealer, you might kick yourself when you discover how much money you could have saved by buying it at Computer Food. Don't Say I didn't warn you.

Oh - One last thing, don't show this ad to the other dealers, it might make them cry.

DONKEY KONG JR. /R	\$37.75	WICO 3-WAY JSTICK	21.50
JOUST	/R 37.75	KRAFT JOYSTICK	14.00
MS. PACMAN	/R 37.75	10 DISKS SS/SD	16.90
PENGO	/R 34.55	KOALA PAD	72.64
POLE POSITION	/R 37.75	BASIC/XL OSS	72.97
ROBOTRON 2084	/R 34.55	ACTION OSS	72.97
LOGO	/R 73.75	MAC65 OSS	56.00
ATARI WRITER	/R 72.00	ZEPPELIN	D/C 25.97
RANA 1000 DRIVE	349.00	RAINBOW WALKER /D	25.97
INDUST GT DRIVE	349.00	ENCOUNTER	D/C 25.97

See you at the next meeting
or call **560-2917** to order.

QUESTIONNAIRE

Please answer the following questions as they relate to your needs. Unanswered questions will not be counted. If you have any comments, no matter of what significance, please include something for each question. The results from all collected data will be presented in a future newsletter article.

Thank you.

MEETING

How effective is the question/answer session during the meeting?

Do you like the meeting
DEMOS?_____,GAMES?_____,UTILITIES?_____,PRODUCTS?_____

Would you change the meeting date/time?

To what? Day_____,Time_____

CONTENT OF MEETINGS

Satisfied _____

Not satisfied_____

Would like to see more _____

Suggestions:

Do you like having the vendors at each meeting? Yes/No_____

How often do you purchase from them?

Software_____ s=sometimes

Hardware_____ n=never

Books_____ f=frequently

How could the vendors be of better service to you?

Are their prices too high/too low/ok? _____

Other suggestions?

SWAP MEETS

How often should we have swap meets?_____

Do you usually come to them to swap?_____or buy?_____or sell?_____

No opinion_____.

GAME FAIRS

Would you come to a game fair to participate_____/just look_____

Not interested in game fairs____ Suggestions:

SOFTWARE LIBRARY

Do you use the club's software library? yes/no _____

How often? _____

Do you buy the disk of the month?

all the time _____

occasionally _____

never _____

What can be done to improve the library services?

Would you be willing to help with the library? _____

Do you use book library? _____

BULLETIN BOARD

Do you use the BBS? yes/no _____

How often? Daily _____

Weekly _____

Monthly _____

Are you willing to pay a fee to use the BBS? yes/no _____

What do you feel is a reasonable fee? \$ _____

Should the fee be a one-time charge? _____ or yearly? _____.

Suggestions:

NEWSLETTER

What do you like/dislike about the newsletter?

Would you submit article(s) yes/no _____; Why not?

Suggestions:

EDUCATION

Are there computers in your or your children's school?

What school?_____

What type?_____

How many?_____

How often are they used?_____

What percentage of your software is educational?

What educational software have you used and in general how would you rate them (Poor, Fair, Good)?

From an educational standpoint, what activities would you like to see TAIG do?

Would you like to see more educational software like a disk of the month?

If we do not have an Education coordinator, would you?

not care_____

feel we need one_____

like to help_____

Suggestions:

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Which are you interested in?

Atari Graphics_____

Beginners_____

Telecommunication_____

Education_____

Music_____

Compute_____

Hardware_____

CP/M (ATR8000)_____

Other_____

CLUB OFFICERS

Would you consider being an officer? yes/no _____

If yes, Pres_____, V.Pres_____,
Secretary_____, Treasurer_____
Name_____

Suggestions:

What would you like the club to be doing more of?

What would you like the club to be doing less of?

RETURN QUESTIONNAIRE TO:

TAIG
3129 E. 22nd St.
Mpls., MN 55406

OR:

BRING QUESTIONNAIRE TO JANUARY MEETING.

cut here

Please fill in your name and membership number below to be eligible for the software prize drawing at the February meeting.

NAME:

MEMBERSHIP #:

COMPUTER WAR DECLARED

NEWSFLASH! Commodore Vic 20 owners just raided the Atari Corporate Headquarters. They have caused unimagineable damage to Atari computers. Now all of the Ataris think they only have 5k of RAM. All player missile capabilities were also destroyed.

In an interview with the leader of the local Atari group, this reporter has learned that a reprisal is planned. They plan on forcing everyone with Commodores to use Atari Basic. "Low blow!" cries one Atari owner who turned out to be a spy. This was deduced by his carrying in accidentally the 64 version of Choplifter! to the meeting.

What is not known at this time, is the possible entry into the war by Apple. Confidential sources report that Apple was planning to side with the Commodore owners. The reason for this may be that Applesoft and Microsoft Basic are brothers under the skin.

The only comments we got from IBM was of their secret Infrared weapon.

The whole world is wondering what precipitated these actions. The word is that Commodore owners were upset by the lack of software for their computer.

This is your loyal reporter signing off. Till next issue.

SURVEY TIME

In this issue is a questionnaire for you to fill out. We would appreciate your doing this and sending it back to us. Or bring it to the next meeting.

To encourage your response, we will have a drawing from the people who returned the questionnaire. The winners will receive programs and maybe there will be a piece of hardware.

This questionnaire is for us to find out what the group is thinking we should provide. Your response would be greatly appreciated.

TwinCities Atari Interest Group
6824 Queen Avenue South
Richfield, MN 55423



NEXT MEETING JAN. 15, 1984
AT ST. LOUIS PARK REC CENTER

5:00 PM SWAP MEET
6:00 PM DISCUSSION GROUPS
7:00 PM MEETING